

the Emir of Kuwait, where those believers—who no longer want to mingle with the raff raff and travel to increasingly dangerous places like London, Paris and New York—can spend their American petro dollars to buy the latest Chanel bags.

Then there is a commentary on why the Kuwaitis and their Saudi brothers should not allow the American “infidels” to use Arab soil to attack their Iraqi brethren. It would upset the peace of their own fiefdoms. CNN’s commentator laments Iraqi children dying of hunger due to food shortages. On the next Arabic channel Saddam Hussein’s recently increased premium payments to suicide bombers’ families and his announcement to give \$25,000 to each homeless Palestinian are praised with admiration.

I can’t fall asleep, so I keep changing the channels. The European television stations are showing news footage of French synagogues being burned at the hands of unseen perpetrators and the unbelievable news that the French convict Jean Marie Le Pen, who called the gas chambers of Auschwitz a “detail of history,” came in second in the first round of the French presidential election. “Austrians remember the times when the mass media of Paris fell all over themselves calling Austria a hopeless Nazi-land,” remarks the Austrian journalist Ernst Trost in a rapid-fire commentary aimed at the French.

There is an item on German TV about a young Hasidic man beaten savagely by “persons unknown.” British commentators on the BBC are giving lessons in morality to Israeli Jews who “militarily conquered other peoples’ land.” I wonder, “What a blatant double standard! What was Great Britain doing two decades ago sending its fleet half a world away to fight a war in defense of its claims of conquest on the Falklands?”

I turn off the TV set and try to make sense of it all. How little has changed in more than a century, since the days of Herzl and Dreyfus. Firebombs hurled at Jewish schools and synagogues in France. A school bus carrying Jewish students in Paris bombed with stones. Protestors at a Rome demonstration dressed as suicide bombers. Orthodox Jews assaulted on the streets of north London. In France police reported nearly 360 crimes against Jews and Jewish institutions in the first two weeks of April alone. A kosher butcher’s shop was shot at. Teenagers on an amateur Jewish soccer team were assaulted with sticks and metal bars. Attackers broke into the Finsbury Park District Synagogue in north London, smashing windows, painting a swastika on a lectern and throwing holy books, skullcaps and prayer shawls on the floor. A British flag was left on the altar, prompting speculation that right-wing nationalists were responsible.

German Jews appeal to authorities to stop a spiral of violence against Jewish targets. An assailant threw a Molotov cocktail at a synagogue, a homemade bomb exploded at a Jewish cemetery and two Jewish women were assaulted at a Berlin subway station. A Berlin police official suggests that Jews should stop wearing religious symbols to avoid attacks.

Vandals throw red paint at a Holocaust memorial in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, in the second attack on Jewish monuments in Greece. In Canada, the land of tolerance, synagogues are burning, Jews are being beaten. The German and British governments are imposing a quiet boycott of Israel. The Swiss are talking of putting punitive tariffs on Israeli goods in public. Arafat and Kofi Annan are speaking of moral equivalency. And while 21 Arab states sit on their hands and their petrol billions instead of trying to better the conditions of their Palestinian brethren, the newly freed Yasser

Arafat is screaming hateful insults, calling Jews “Nazis”.

President Bush called for an all-out war on terrorism. Yet due to great pressures from America’s un-democratic but oil-rich allies in the Middle East, his Secretary of State pays a visit to the arch-terrorist Yasser Arafat in Ramallah. Along with many, Arafat regards Zionism as a way of making Palestinians pay for the Holocaust. Just a decade after he established al Fatah, the predecessor of the PLO, the “leader of the Palestinian people” consistently stated the purpose of his life: “The end of Israel is the goal of our struggle, and it allows for neither compromise nor mediation.” As he explained to Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci in 1972: “We don’t want peace. We want war, victory. Peace for us means the destruction of Israel and nothing else.”

It is dawn in Basel. A young couple are walking their dog by the Rhine. The pretty blond lady holding the leash is in about her eighth month of pregnancy. I look at her from my hotel window and suddenly I am filled with envy. That child who is about to be born into the world of this tiny nation will never see war. After all, there has been no war in this part of the world for centuries. There is no September 11th lurking in the future and their baby carriage will not likely be blown up by anyone.

I think of the hundreds of Jews who were murdered and the thousands maimed by Arab terror since the peace deal that they demanded was offered to them. I think of the Six Million who died in the Holocaust. The world never learns.

RECOGNIZING CLAYTON M. MEALER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Clayton M. Mealer of Defiance, Ohio, who recently accepted his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Clayton will soon graduate from Defiance Senior High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a high grade point average, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is an accomplished athlete, earning a varsity letter in football. And, he has clearly demonstrated his civic awareness, generously volunteering his time as a tutor, and in support of Habitat for Humanity and Clean the City Parks.

Clayton Mealer can be very proud of his many accomplishments. He is a credit to his family, his school, and his community. By accepting his appointment, Clayton is accepting a unique challenge.

The Academy is the pinnacle of leadership development for the United States Army. As a member of the U.S. Corps of Cadets, he will face a most demanding academic curriculum and physical regimen. He will live, study and prepare in an environment where strong leadership thrives, individual achievement is expected, and personal integrity is demanded.

Mr. Speaker, General John W. Vessey, Jr. once wrote, “The Nation’s ability to remain free and at peace depends in no small measure on whether we will continue to inspire our youth to serve.”

I am confident that Clayton Mealer has the character and ability to excel at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his very important service to our nation.

COMMENDING THE PUERTO RICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of South Florida, which celebrates its 10th Anniversary on June 8, 2002 with a salute to Federal Service Employees of Puerto Rican heritage at a Gala Dinner Dance in Miami, Florida.

The keynote speaker for the event is highly decorated naval aviator, Vice-Admiral Diego E. Hernandez, (Retired) U. S. Navy.

An Honor Roll listing will recognize the highest-ranking Puerto Ricans in each of the Federal agencies in South Florida, and additionally will pay tribute to the four Puerto Rican Medal of Honor recipients.

Three valuable and distinguished South Florida U.S. Government officials, Gilbert Colon, Deputy Director, SBA, Federico Costales, District Director, Florida, EEOC and Hector M. Pesquera, Special Agent in Charge, FBI, will serve as Honorary Co-chairs of the event.

Event Sponsor Vista Magazine and other corporations sponsor this Celebration, including: American Airlines and Unibank among others, the net proceeds of the event will benefit the Raul Julia Scholarship Fund for exemplary Puerto Rican Youth in need of financial assistance to realize their dreams of a college education.

The Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of South Florida has been an important factor in the development of Puerto Rican entrepreneurs in South Florida as well as a catalyst for increased trade between Florida and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Chamber has a partnership agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for the dissemination of valuable business information to new and existing businesses, including education on how to access capital markets for small business loans guaranteed by the SBA programs.

Concurrently, the Chamber has achieved working relations with the Miami-Dade County departments of Procurement, Economic and Business Development, and is a promoter of Mayor Alex Pinelas’s “Business Express Action Team.” By their deeds, the Puerto Rican Chamber of South Florida has demonstrated their commitment to deliver outstanding services in developing minority businesses in cooperation with corporate America and the units of government dedicated to improving and facilitating business prosperity.

The Founding Board of Directors under the leadership and vision of Melvin “Skip” Chaves, the First Chairman, and all subsequent Board members, along with their first and current President Luis De Rosa, are to be commended for their dedication to make this